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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No: 09/782,619 Filed: February 13, 2001
Attorney Docket No: DP-301899 Examiner: Ridley, Basis Anna
Applicant: M. James Grieve. Group Art Unit: 1764
TITLE: FUEL REFORMER SYSTEM

I hereby certify that this document is being FACSIMILE TRANSMITTED TO The United States Patent and Trademark Office to the Attention of:

Examiner RIDLEY, BASIA ANNA
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Date of Deposit: November 4, 2004

Signature: 
Lowell M. Train

MS: AMENDMENT
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-15450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED OCTOBER 4, 2004

Dear Sir:

This is Applicants' response to the Office Action mailed October 4, 2004 requiring restriction in the above-identified application between claims 1-14 (Group I) and claims 15-24 (Group II). Applicants provisionally elect claims 1-14 (Group I) with traverse.

The Office Action asserts that Inventions I and II are unrelated because they have different modes of operation, different functions, and different effects. Applicants respectfully disagree. Comparing claim 1 with claim 15, it can be readily observed that the claims are virtually identical with the exception that claim 15 is directed to a method

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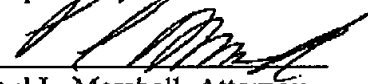
of maintaining a vehicle device in standby mode while claim 1 is directed to a method of starting a vehicle device where the device is a reformer. Otherwise, the actual process steps set forth in the claims are identical. Applicants respectfully submit that with such similarities, it is improper to restrict these claims as "unrelated".

The impropriety of the restriction requirement can be illustrated by how Applicants are considering to respond if the restriction requirement is maintained. Applicants' response under consideration would be to draft a generic claim identical to claim 15, but amending the preamble to be directed simply to a method of operating a vehicle device rather than a method of maintaining a vehicle device in standby mode. Dependent claims would specify that the method is carried out to maintain the device in standby mode (identical scope to claim 15), or would specify that the device is a reformer and the method is carried out during reformer startup (identical scope to claim 1). Such an amendment is easily accomplished because the *actual process steps of the claims are the same*. Clearly, restriction would not be proper between such dependent claims, and those claims would be identical in scope to the instant claims 1 and 15.

For the reasons above, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Please charge any necessary fees, including any extension of time, or any other fee deficiencies to Delphi Technologies, Inc., Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully Submitted:


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PLM:lt